

## Rising Above the impact of domestic violence: Intercultural competence in therapy

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The United Nations defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

# 1/3

### Risk factors for SV/DV include:

- Lower levels of education (perpetration of sexual violence and experience of sexual violence);
- Exposure to child maltreatment (perpetration and experience);
- Witnessing family violence (perpetration and experience);
- Antisocial personality disorder (perpetration);
- Harmful use of alcohol (perpetration and experience);
- Having multiple partners or suspected by their partners of infidelity (perpetration);
- Attitudes that are accepting of violence and gender inequality (perpetration and experience).

### Factors associated with sexual violence perpetration include:

- Beliefs in family honour and sexual purity; Ideologies of male sexual entitlement; and
- Weak legal sanctions for sexual violence.
- The unequal position of women relative to men and the normative use of violence to resolve conflict are strongly associated with both intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.

### Health consequences

- Violence against women can have fatal results like homicide or suicide.
- It can lead to injuries, with 42% of women who experience intimate partner reporting an injury as a consequence of this violence.
- The 2013 analysis found that women who had been physically or sexually abused were 1.5 times more likely to have a sexually transmitted infection and, in some regions, HIV, compared to women who have not experienced partner violence. They are also twice as likely to have an abortion.